Case 1:12-cv-01153-RJA-JJM Document 1 Filed 11/21/12 Page 1 of 13

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	The state of the s	*	DEFEND AND			
DON ANDERSON			DEFENDANTS			
·	· · ·		WILSON E	TARMS, INC.		
(b) County of Residen	ce of First Listed Plaintiff NIAGARA		Courte SP		EDTE	
	(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	ERTE	
	-PIASECKI lEGAL		NOTE: INTA	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASE	ES ONLY)	
908 Niag	gara Falls Blvd. Suite 252		LANI	ND CONDEMNATION CASES, DINVOLVED.	USE THE LOCATION OF THE	
(c) Attomory's thin 18 (716) 69	Maddess and Telephon Number 14120		Attorneys (If Known)	1		
	. PIASECKI, ESQ.					
II. BASIS OF JURIS	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	TH. CY	TIOTALON			
17 AL + 47 AL + 47 AL + 1	•	m. C	For Diversity Cases Only)	PRINCIPAL PARTIE	S(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
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□ 2 U.S. Government	D 4 Diversity	ļ		of Business In T	his State	
Defendant		Citize	n of Another State	2 D 2 Incorporated and	Principal Place 🗇 5 🗇 5	
	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			of Business In	Another State	
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160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage		Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	Exchange	
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 385 Property Damage	☐ 7 20	Labor/Mgmt, Relations	0 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410	
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VII. REQUESTED IN	8					
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AO 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

OINI Propries	for the					
Western District of New York						
DON ANDERSON)					
Plaintiff						
v. WILSON FARMS, IN	C. Civil Action No.					
Defendant	j	·				
TRA OR BEAR.	SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION					
TiC To: (Defendant's name and address)	ر المراجع المر					
WILSON FARMS, IN	C. 1780 Wehrle Drive, Suite 110, Williamsville, New York 14221	+6-15-5				
A lawsuit has been filed again	f this summons on you (not asset)	Auswsi				
P.12 (a)(2) or (3)—you must serve of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. whose name and address are: BRAN KRES: 908 NI	s agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. In the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, DON W. PIASECKI SES & PIASECKI LEGAL AGARA FALLS BLVD. SUITE 252 H TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14120	Robert Profession Prof				
be entered again If you fail to respond judgmen You also must file your answer or moti	at by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. on with the court.	to the second				
CLÉU, ESPOSIT	CLERK OF COURT					
Date:						
A STATE OF THE STA	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk					

A. 18951

1	LAW OFFICES OF KRESSES-PIASECKI					
2	LEGAL BRANDON W. PIASECKI					
3	Brandon@knpvisa.com 908 Niagara Falls Blvd. Suite 252					
4	North Tonawanda, New York 14120 Telephone: (716) 693-4792					
5	Facsimile: (716) 693-5254					
6	Attorney for Plaintiff DON ANDERSON					
7						
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT					
9	WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK					
10	DON ANDERSON, individually and on behalf of all others similarly) Case No.					
11	situated, CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT					
12	Plaintiff, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL					
13	vs.					
14	WILSON FARMS, INC.,					
15	Defendant.					
16	3					
17						
18	Now comes DON ANDERSON ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and all					
19	-41					
20	INTRODUCTION					
21	1. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others					
22	similarly situated against Defendant WILSON FARMS, INC. alleging violations of					
23	the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C.§ 1693 et seq. and its implementing					
24	regulations 12 C.F.R. § 205 et seq. (hereinafter referred to collectively as the					
25	"EFTA").					
26	2. The Congressional findings and declaration of purpose regarding the					
27	EFTA are as follows:					
28	(a) Rights and liabilities undefined					
	- 1-					
	, .					

Plaintiff Don Anderson's Class Action Complaint

The Congress finds that the use of electronic systems to transfer funds provides the potential for substantial benefits to consumers. However, due to the unique characteristics of such systems, the application of existing consumer protection legislation is unclear, leaving the rights and liabilities of consumers, financial institutions and intermediaries in electronic fund transfers undefined.

(b) Purposes

It is the purpose of this subchapter to provide a basic framework establishing the rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of participants in electronic fund transfer systems. The primary objective of this subchapter, however, is the provision of individual consumer rights.

15 U.S.C. § 1693.

- 3. Among other things, the EFTA imposes certain disclosure requirements upon operators of automated teller machines ("ATMs").
- 4. 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(A) requires any ATM operator who imposes fees on consumers in connection with electronic fund transfers to provide notice of the fact that the fee is being imposed and the amount of the fee.¹
- 5. 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(B) identifies the location where the required notice must be posted as follows:
 - (B) Notice requirements
 - (i) On the machine

The notice required under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) with respect to any fee described in such paragraph shall be posted in a prominent and conspicuous location on or at the automated teller machine at which the electronic fund transfer is initiated by the consumer.

(ii) On the screen

The notice required under clauses (i) and (ii) subparagraph (A) with respect to any fee described in such subparagraph shall appear on the

¹ "Electronic fund transfer" is defined as "any transfer of funds, other than a transaction originated by check, draft, or similar paper instrument, which is initiated through an electronic terminal, telephonic instrument, or computer or magnetic tape so as to order, instruct, or authorize a financial institution to debit or credit an account. Such term includes, but is not limited to, point-of-sale transfers, automated teller machine transactions, direct deposits or withdrawals of funds, and transfers initiated by telephone..." 15 U.S.C. § 1693a(6).

screen of the automated teller machine, or on a paper notice issued form such machine, after the transaction is initiated and before the consumer is irrevocably committed to completing the transaction....

- 6. The relevant implementing regulation, 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c) reinforces EFTA's statutory posting requirement, mandating that the mandatory fee notice: 1) be posted in a "prominent and conspicuous location" on or at the ATM machine; and 2) "on the screen of the automated teller machine or by providing it on paper, before the consumer is committed to paying the fee." 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(c)(1) and (2).
- 7. 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(C), and its implementing regulation, 12 C.F.R. 205.16(e), prohibit ATM operators from imposing a fee on a consumer unless EFTA's notice and posting requirements are followed by the ATM operator.
 - 8. Specifically, 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(C) states, in relevant part:
 - (C) Prohibition on fees not properly disclosed and explicitly assumed by the consumer

No fee may be imposed by any automated teller machine operator in connection with any electronic fund transfer initiated by a consumer for which a notice is required under subparagraph (A), unless—

- (i) The consumer receives such notice in accordance with subparagraph (B)...
- 9. In connection with the 2006 amendments to the EFTA, the board of governors of the Federal Reserve published its final rule and official staff interpretation which, *inter alia*, explained the EFTA's disclosure requirements as follows:

The final rule clarifies the two-part disclosure scheme established in Section 904(d)(3)(B) of the EFTA. The first disclosure, on ATM signage posted on or at the ATM, allows consumers to identify quickly ATMs that generally charge a fee for use. This disclosure is not intended to provide a complete disclosure of the fees associated with the particular type of transaction the consumer seeks to conduct. Until a consumer uses his or her card at an ATM, the ATM operator does not know whether a surcharge will be imposed for that particular consumer. Rather it is the second, more specific disclosure, made either on the ATM screen or on an ATM receipt, that

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informs the consumer before he or she is committed to the transaction whether, in fact, a fee will be imposed for the transaction and the amount of the fee...

71 F.R. 1638, 1656.

The EFTA imposes strict liability upon ATM operators which fail to 10. comply with its disclosure requirements. See e.g., Flores v. Diamond Bank, 2008 WL 4861511 (N.D. Ill., Nov. 7, 2008). Cf. Bisbey v. D.C. National Bank, 793 F.2d 315, 318-19 (D.C. Cir. 1986). ("Among the protections afforded to consumers is the right to receive notice from the ATM operator of the existence and amount of any fee that operator might impose on consumers for conducting transactions at the ATM. 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3). This requires the ATM operator to place notice both on the machine itself and upon the ATM screen. 15 U.S.C. §1693b(d)(3)(B)"). A plaintiff seeking statutory damages under the EFTA need not prove that he or she has sustained any actual financial loss, or that he or she relied upon the lack of mandatory disclosure as an inducement to enter the transaction. See Burns v. First American Bank, 2006 WL 3754820 *6 (N. D. Ill., Dec. 19, 2006) ("Section 1693b(d)(3) prohibits an ATM operator from charging a fee unless it provides notice of its fee on the machine and on the screen, period, no mention of a necessary scienter.")

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. This Court has federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 15 U.S.C. § 1693 *et. seq.*

- 12. Plaintiff's claims asserted herein arose in this judicial district and Defendant does substantial business in this judicial district and/or is the operator of ATMs in this judicial district.
- 13. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) and 1400(a) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred.

PARTIES

- 14. Plaintiff, Don Anderson, is and at all times relevant hereto was a resident of the state of New York.
- 15. Defendant, Wilson Farms, Inc. is headquartered at 1780 Wehrle Drive, Ste 110, Williamsville, NY 14221.
- 16. Defendant is an automated teller machine operator, as that term is defined by 12 C.F.R. § 205.16(a) which states: "Automated teller machine operator means any person that operates an automated teller machine at which a consumer initiates an electronic fund transfer or a balance inquiry and that does not hold the account to or from which the transfer is made, or about which the inquiry is made."

FACTS RELATED TO PLAINTIFF'S TRANSACTION

- 17. Specifically, Plaintiff made a cash withdrawal from Defendant's ATM at the following locations:
 - (a) On or about October 17, 2012, Plaintiff made an electronic fund transfer at Defendant's ATM located at 8109 N.F.B., Niagara Falls, NY. Defendant charged Plaintiff a fee of \$2.50 in connection with the above-described transaction.
 - (b) On or about October 22, 2012, Plaintiff made an electronic fund transfer at Defendant's ATM located at 95 S. Transit & High, Lockport, NY. Defendant charged Plaintiff a fee of \$2.50 in connection with the above-described transaction.

- (c) On or about September 26, 2012, Plaintiff made an electronic fund transfer at Defendant's ATM located at 2310 Hyde Park Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY. Defendant charged Plaintiff a fee of \$2.50 in connection with the above-described transaction.
- (d) On or about November 11, 2012, Plaintiff made an electronic fund transfer at Defendant's ATM located at 607 N. Union Street, Olean, New York. Defendant charged Plaintiff a fee of \$2.50 in connection with the above-described transaction
- 18. At the time of the above-described electronic transaction, Plaintiff did not maintain any accounts with Defendant.
- 19. At the time of the above-described transaction, Defendant was acting as an "automated teller machine operator" that operated the automated teller machine at which Plaintiff initiated an electronic fund transfer or a balance inquiry.
- 20. However, at the time of the above-described transaction, there was no notice posted "on or at" the ATM operated by Defendant apprising consumers that a fee would be charged for use of the ATM.
- 21. Because Defendant did not post the required notice, it was not permitted to charge a usage fee to Plaintiff and other class members.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and all other similarly situated pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - 23. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class of persons to be defined as follows:

All persons who during the year preceding the filing of Plaintiff's complaint: 1) where charged a "terminal fee" at the subject ATMs located at 8109 N.F.B., Niagara Falls, NY, 95 S. Transit & High, Lockport, NY, 2310 Hyde Park Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY and 607 N. Union Street, Olean, New York operated by Defendant when such persons made an electronic fund transfer and/or balance inquiry where, 2) no notice indicating that such fee was to be charged was posted on or at the outside of the ATM machine.

24. Congress expressly intended that the EFTA would be enforced, in part, through private class actions. 15 U.S.C. § 1693m(a).

25. The EFTA's class action enforcement provisions are identical, in relevant part, to the class action enforcement provisions of other consumer protection statutes and housed within the Consumer Credit Protection Act. (15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.) There is abundant authority interpreting and applying these statutory class action provisions, throughout the federal judiciary. Federal courts have routinely certified classes relating to consumer claims for statutory damages, generally, and for violation of the EFTA's ATM fee disclosure provisions. specifically. See, e.g., Hammer v. JP's Southwestern Foods, LLC, No. 08-cv-0339 (W.D. Mo.)(Gaitan, J.); Flores, supra 2008 WL 4861511 at 3-5; Burns, supra., 2006 WL 3754820 at *11-12; Jackman v. Global Cash Access Holdings, 09-cv-897 (W.D. Pa.) (McVerry, J.) (class certified and final settlement approval granted): Nolf v. Allegheny Bank of Pittsburgh, 09-cv-645 (W.D.Pa.) (Bissoon, J.) (class certified and final settlement approval granted); Dragotta v. Northwest Bancorp, Inc. d/b/a Northwest Savings Bank, 09-cv-632 (W.D. Pa.)(Fischer, J.) .)(class certified and final settlement approval granted); Parker v. First-Citizen Bank & Trust Company, 09-cv-0588 (M.D. Tenn.)(Campbell, J.).)(class certified and final settlement approval granted); Polevoy v. Devon Bank, 08-cv-4822 (N.D. Ill.) (Kennelly, J.) (class certified and final settlement approval granted); Ochart v. Broadway Bank, 08-cv-4893, (N.D. Ill.)(Castillo, J.)(class certified and final settlement approval granted); Anthony v. Fifth Third Bank (Chicago), 08-cv-4359, (N.D. Ill) (Schenkier, J.)(class certified and final settlement approval granted); Zintel v. Financial Partners Credit Union, (C.D. CA), SACV 09-0868. (class certified and final settlement approval granted).

26. <u>Numerosity</u>: The class described above is so numerous that joinder of all individual members in one action would be impracticable. The disposition of the individual claims of the respective class members through this class action will benefit both the parties and this Court.

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- 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that there are at minimum, thousands of members of the class described above.
- 28. The exact size of the class and the identities of the individual members thereof are ascertainable through Defendant's records.
- 29. Members of the class may be notified of the pendency of this action by techniques and forms commonly used in class actions, such as by published notice, e-mail notice, website notices, first class mail, or combinations thereof, or by other methods suitable to this class and deemed necessary and/or appropriate by this Court.
- 30. <u>Typicality:</u> Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class. The claims of the Plaintiff and members of the class are based on the same legal theories and arise from the same unlawful and willful conduct.
- 31. Plaintiff and members of the class were each consumers who used an ATM machine operated by Defendant to make an electronic fund transfer or balance inquiry and were charged a terminal owner fee, notwithstanding that the posting providing notice of the fee required by EFTA "on or at" Defendant's terminals was not present.
- 32. <u>Common Questions of Fact and Law:</u> There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of fact and law affecting members of the class.
- 33. The questions of fact and law common to the class predominate over questions which may affect individual members and include the following:
 - a. Whether, under 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(A) and 12 C.F.R. 205.16, Defendant was, at all relevant times, an automated teller machine operator that imposed a fee on consumers for providing host electronic fund transfer services to those consumers;
 - b. Whether Defendant complied with the notice requirements of 15 U.S.C. § 1693(d)(3)(B) and 12 C.F.R. 205.16; and,
 - c. Whether Plaintiff and members of the class are entitled to statutory damages, costs and/or attorneys' fees for Defendant's acts and conduct.

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- 34. Adequacy of Representations: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the class because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the class. Plaintiff will fairly, adequately, and vigorously represent and protect the interests of the members of the class and has no interests antagonistic to the members of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel who is competent and experienced in the prosecution of class action litigation.
- 35. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the class. While the aggregate damages which may be awarded to the members of the class are likely to be substantial, the damages suffered by the individual members of the class are relatively small. As a result, the expense and burden of individual litigation makes it economically infeasible and procedurally impracticable for each member of the class to individually seek redress for the wrongs done to them. Plaintiff does not know of any other litigation concerning this controversy already commenced by or against any member of the class. The likelihood of the individual members of the class prosecuting separate claims is remote. Individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent, or contradictory judgments, and would increase the delay and expense to all parties and the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same factual issues. In contrast, the conduct of this matter as a class action presents fewer management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and the court system, and would protect the rights of each member of the class. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

SUBSTANTIVE VIOLATION

36. 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3)(A) provides that as a prerequisite to imposition of a usage fee upon a consumer for host transfer services, an automated teller machine operator must provide notice to the consumer consistent with subparagraph (B) of that statutory section.

Subparagraph (B) of 15 U.S.C. § 1693(d)(3) provides in relevant part: The notice required under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) with respect to any fee described in such subparagraph shall be posted in a prominent and conspicuous location on or at the automated teller machine at which the electronic fund transfer is initiated by the In turn, subparagraph (c) of 15 U.S.C. § 1693b(d)(3) states, in relevant (C) Prohibition on fees not properly disclosed and explicitly assumed by the No fee may be imposed by any automated teller machine operator in connection with any electronic fund transfer initiated by a consumer for which a notice is required under subparagraph (A), unless-The consumer receives such notice in accordance with subparagraph EFTA's statutory notice requirements are reinforced by the implementing regulations set forth at 12 C.F.R. § 205.16. Defendant violated the notice requirements of EFTA in connection with providing host transfer services to Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant was prohibited from imposing any usage fee or similar fee for providing host transfer services because it failed to comply with EFTA's notice 15 U.S.C. § 1693m provides that Defendant shall be liable to Plaintiff and Class for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1693 et seq. in the amount of, inter alia, statutory damages to be determined by the Court, the costs of this action and On November 27, 2009, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC")- a major regulator of many banks—issued Financial Institution Letter 66-

1	notices both (a) in a prominent and conspicuous location on or at the automated				
2	teller machine, and (b) on the screen or on paper before the consumer is committee				
3	to paying the fee. The letter also noted that the FDIC had first notified FDIC-				
4	supervised banks of these requirements in a Financial Institution Letter dated Marc				
5	23, 2001 (FIL-25-2001).				
6	44. By way of this action, Plaintiff seeks the imposition of statutory				
7	damages, costs of suit and attorneys' fees.				
8					
9		P	RAYER FOR RELIEF		
10	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the members of the class,				
11	prays for:		The state of the s		
12	a.	An order ce	ertifying the class and appointing Plaintiff as the		
13		representati as counsel	ertifying the class and appointing Plaintiff as the ve of the class, and appointing counsel for Plaintiff for the class;		
14	b. An award to Plaintiff and the members of the class of statutory damages;				
15					
16	d.	y ====== 0.2 0.2 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1			
17	Q.	1 ayınıcın or	reasonably attorneys rees.		
18	A TRIAL E	SY JURY IS	DEMANDED.		
19	Dated: November	21, 2012	Respectfully submitted,		
20			LAW OFFICES OF KRESSES PIASECLY		
21			LEGAL THE THE TANK TH		
22			By: BRANDON PIASECKI		
23			Law offices of KRESSES-PIASECKI LEGAL		
24			908 Niagara Falls Blvd., Suite 252 North Tonawanda, New York 14120		
25			Tel.No. (716) 693-4792 Fax No. (716) 693-5254 Email: <u>brandon@knpvisa.com</u>		
26					
27			Attorney for Plaintiff DON ANDERSON		
28					
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